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## Monitor Newsletter January 29, 2001

Bowling Green State University

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# MONITOR

VOL. 25 NO. 26 ♦ JANUARY 29, 2001



Provost John Folkins, Beth Casey, director of the general education program, Neil Browne, economics, and Mark Gromko, vice provost for academic programs (left to right), were among the panelists in a discussion of BGSU's general education program Jan. 23.

## Faculty discuss general education

There is great, untapped potential in BGSU's general education program, but mining it will only happen if faculty get involved. That was the consensus of panelists and participants in a forum on general education sponsored by Faculty Senate last week.

In order to make real changes, much faculty professional development will need to be offered, they also agreed.

"It will be crucial that we come to a consensus-driven understanding of what we want to accomplish," Neil Browne, distinguished teaching professor of economics, said.

Once the goals are decided upon, they should be made explicit to students, all agreed.

Fiona MacKinnon-Slaney, College Student Personnel Program and interim program chair of educational foundations and inquiry, said faculty need to understand who their students are in developmental terms. At the students' age, what is most important to them is finding a job and finding a mate, she said, and they don't see the connection between these goals and general education courses.

"They don't know what general education is. We need to tell them and make them partners in it," she said.

Provost John Folkins introduced some typical principles of general education. These include creating an educated person by giving them "a little dab of this and a little dab of that." Another common goal is to attract majors to the various disciplines.

All these tend to give breadth rather than depth, which is not always a bad thing in general

education, the panelists said. However, Folkins cautioned, as ends in themselves they do a disservice to the greater, overarching goals of "winning the hearts of students, creating a love of scholarship and things academic" and developing basic skills such as writing, problem-solving and "ways of knowing," he said.

All these skills are substrata of the courses, the panelists said, but must be made more evident and explicit, both to faculty and students.

Gary Evans, geology and chair-elect of Faculty Senate, posed a challenge: how to teach critical thinking to a survey course of 90-270 students.

Don Nieman, dean of the College of Arts & Sciences, responded that faculty training can be of great use. The Center for Teaching, Learning and Technology offers classes in increasing active learning in the large lecture, which can include various technology applications that enable more direct contact between faculty and students.

Bob Midden, chemistry and a member of the Chapman Learning Community, said general education prepares students for the "other two-thirds of their lives, the part that is not vocational." It can help one become a better citizen and learn to use the vast resources and knowledge at our command, he said.

"General education could change our society in a profound way," Midden said.

Peter Shields, chair of the telecommunications department, stressed that the "consumer metaphor" for the university perhaps truncates that more

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## Gift from Fifth Third puts BGSU over the top

A gift from Fifth Third Bank has helped the University top its goal of raising \$6 million in private funds to expand and renovate the Student Union.

On Jan. 25, officials of the Cincinnati-based bank presented the University a check for the first installment of a three-year, \$200,000 pledge from the Jacob G. Schmidlapp Trust, for which the bank serves as trustee.

"We tend to support efforts that make a difference for people in the communities we serve. Bowling Green State University makes a huge difference in the lives of its students. The Student Union is not just a place to provide necessary student services, but it also creates an informal environment for networking that is so important," said Donald H. Kincade, president and CEO of Fifth Third Bank of Northwest Ohio. "While this is a brick-and-mortar project, in reality we think it is a good investment in people and the future prosperity of this region," he added.

It's an investment the University appreciates, President Sidney A. Ribeau said, noting that the enlarged facility will offer conveniently located services and programs for the campus community. "The added dividend," he said, "is that the new building also will help us in student recruitment and reten-

tion because the facility is designed to extend our learning community beyond the classroom."

Marcia Latta, director of development, said that with the gift from Fifth Third Bank, BGSU has raised a total of \$6.1 million for the Student Union project.

"This is the largest fundraising effort for a building ever undertaken at BGSU. I'm thrilled that we've surpassed our goal," Latta said. "The response we've seen from alumni and friends speaks strongly of the support we're receiving for our emphasis on serving students' needs."

A room in the Student Union will be named after Fifth Third Bank, Latta noted, adding there are many rooms in the facility still available to be named in recognition of contributors.

"We will continue to raise as many private dollars as we can because each project's costs not covered by contributions will be assessed to students in the form of fees," she explained.

Jacob G. Schmidlapp was a former Fifth Third president who dedicated his life to helping others. His trust, which was created in 1919 as a complement to his dedication to charitable and community-development initiatives, provides financial support to hundreds of non-profit organizations each year.

## Foust book explores clear channel radio

Controversy over the control of clear channel AM radio during the first half of the 20th century and its importance to the development of radio broadcasting is examined in a new book by James Foust, journalism.

In *Big Voices of the Air: The Battle over Clear Channel Radio*, Foust explores the debate over clear channel radio stations and attempts by their owners to maintain and enhance their dominant position in the broadcast band.

Published by Iowa State University Press, the book concentrates on the formation and role of commercial communications interest groups and examines their goals and strategies in relation to today's larger, more structured entities from the perspective of the policymakers.

*Big Voices of the Air* has been nominated for the Theatre Library Association awards given by the Rosenthal Library at Queens College.

Clear channel AM radio stations were once the dominant electronic media. Their powerful signals stretched hundreds—in some cases thousands—of miles on exclusive frequencies, clear of interference from other stations.

These powerful stations, established by the Federal Radio Commission, created a debate with opponents of the channels. The issue, which arose in 1928 and ended in the mid-60s, was important to the future development of broadcasting in the United States.

"The battle over clear chan-

(Continued on back)

## job postings.....

Contact Human Resources at 372-8421 for information regarding the following:  
**CLASSIFIED**

(Employees wishing to apply for these positions may request a "Request for Transfer" form.)

Deadline for employees to apply is 1 p.m., Friday, Feb. 2.

**Broadcasting Technician 1 (C-11-Vb)**—WBGU-TV. Pay grade 7.

**Data Systems Coordinator 3 (C-8-Vb)**—Libraries and Learning Resources. Pay grade 12. (Listed on and off campus.)

**Food Service Worker (C-9/10-Sb)**—University Dining Services. Nine-month, part-time. (Listed on and off campus.)

### ADMINISTRATIVE

**Director (M-128)**—Alumni Affairs and Associate Vice President for University Advancement (re-advertised). Deadline: Jan. 30.

**Curriculum Design Specialist (M-150)**—College of Education and Human Development. Administrative grade 14. Deadline: Feb. 2.

**Associate Director of Recreational Sports, Intramurals, Sport Clubs and Perry Field House Programs (S-151)**—

**Recreational Sports, Administrative grade 16.** Deadline: Feb. 2.

**Assistant Volleyball Coach (S-003)**—Intercollegiate Athletics. Deadline: Feb. 6.

**Athletic Academic Coordinator (S-006)**—Intercollegiate Athletics. Administrative grade 12. Deadline: Feb. 9.

**Assistant Director of Records for Transfer Evaluation (M-008)**—Office of Registration and Records. Administrative grade 15. Deadline: Feb. 16.

**Assistant Director of Athletic Communications (S-016)**—Intercollegiate Athletics. Administrative grade 11. Deadline: Feb. 20.

**Assistant Director of Recreational Sports, Intramurals, Sport Clubs and Perry Field House Programs (S-152)**—Recreational Sports. Administrative grade 13. Deadline: Feb. 23.

**Communications Director (M-005)**—Office of Marketing and Communications. Administrative grade 18. Deadline: Feb. 26.

**Coordinator of Fine Arts Admission (M-125)**—College of Arts and Sciences. Administrative grade 14. Deadline: March 5.

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## General education (Continued)

noble goal and that a "citizenship metaphor" would better serve. He also felt that helping students understand the place of the university in society is an important component of education, but one which is rarely

discussed.

Another forum will be held toward the end of February to address instructional issues of general education.

For more on the discussion, see Monitor online.

## campus calendar.....

### Wednesday, Jan. 31

**Brown Bag Luncheon.** "Nancy Drew, Hollywood & the Typical Teenage Girl," presented by Ilana Nash, American culture studies, noon, 107 Hanna Hall.

**Black History Month Kick Off Celebration.** "Look How Far We've Come," sponsored by Black Student Union, 11 p.m.-1 a.m., 101 Olscamp Hall.

**Classic American Films Series.** "The Godfather," 1972, directed by Francis Ford Coppola, 7:30 p.m., Gish Film Theater.

**Faculty Artist Series.** featuring William Mathis, trombone, 8 p.m., Bryan Recital Hall, Moore Musical Arts Center.

### Thursday, Feb. 1

**Black History Month Luncheon.** sponsored by Panhellenic Council, 11 a.m.-2 p.m., 101 Olscamp Hall.

**Administrative Staff Council.** 1:30-3 p.m., Pallister Conference Room, Jerome Library.

**International Film Series.** "Shatranj Ke Khilad (Chess Players)," 7:30 p.m., Gish Film Theater.

### Friday, Feb. 2

**Presentation.** "A Perfection-

ist Basis for Non-Perfectionist Politics: Why Individual Rights?" with Douglas B. Rasmussen, philosophy, St. John's University; presented by the Social Philosophy and Policy Center, 3-5 p.m., 301 Shatzel Hall.

**Black History Month Performance.** "An Evening With Martin and Langston," featuring actors Danny Glover and Felix Justice, sponsored by Black Student Union. Tickets available at 111 University Hall and 452 Saddlemire Student Services Building. Tickets are \$10 with BGSU I.D., \$20 general public. Contact Rickie Waugh at 2-2692 or rwaugh@bgnet@bgsu.edu.

### Sunday, Feb. 4

**Faculty Artist Series.** featuring Jay Miglia, jazz saxophone, 3 p.m., Bryan Recital Hall, Moore Musical Arts Center.

### Monday, Feb. 5

**Black History Month Panel Discussion.** "Celebrate the Differences," 7-8:30 p.m., 115 West Building, BGSU Firelands. Sponsored by Phi Delta Kappa Chapter.

### Continuing events

#### Through Feb. 1

**Art Exhibition.** "The Lopsided Grin," a collection of visual farces and satires on contemporary art. Willard Wankelman Gallery, Fine Arts Center. Gallery hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Tuesday-Saturday.

## in brief

### Schoolhouse open for classes, tours

The Little Red Schoolhouse, an original, one-room schoolhouse built in 1875 in Norwalk and moved to BGSU in 1975, is open 1-5 p.m. every Saturday and Sunday during the academic year. Fully restored with many original items, the schoolhouse provides an ideal classroom experience, and faculty are encouraged to consider the site for class meetings. Tour guides are also available to provide a 20-minute orientation.

To schedule the building for a class, or to arrange for a tour at a time other than the scheduled weekend hours, call 2-7364 and leave a voicemail message.

### Sign up for Presidents' Day

The Office of Admissions is seeking volunteers to help in the coordination of a Presidents' Day Open House. Volunteers can work a minimum of two hours or for the entire event, if possible.

Volunteer forms are available on the Web at [www.bgsu.edu/admissions/offices/volunteer](http://www.bgsu.edu/admissions/offices/volunteer) and are due by Jan. 31. Additional information about the event is also available on this Web site. For information, call Kay Nickel Gudehus at 2-7857.

### Foust book (Continued)

nels in many ways foreshadowed media political battles we have today," said Foust. "When you see cable companies battling satellite providers or satellite providers battling broadcast stations, you're seeing many of the same types of political maneuvering and public interest arguments that were used in the clear channel debate."

The power of clear channel AM radio stations and the debate they raised in the past is

not of the same importance today, said Foust. Radio stations are increasingly controlled by conglomerates, and the emergence of television, cable and satellite has made other media available to rural consumers.

"Today, there are no truly clear channels in the 1930s sense," Foust said. "There aren't any stations with the kind of exclusive rights to a frequency that the original clear channel stations had."

## [ G R O W B O G ]

**Come join in the kick-off for 2001 Family Campaign 4-6 p.m., Feb. 14 McFall Gallery**

[www.bgsu.edu/faculty\\_staff/](http://www.bgsu.edu/faculty_staff/)

**Monitor**  
.....online